

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02137 170811Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2137

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SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ENGIN UNSAL

REF: ANKARA 2035

1. THE FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ENGIN UNSAL, ONE OF TWO TURKISH DELEGATES TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY (NAA) MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING. (THE OTHER DELEGATE IS SENATOR KAMURAN INAN, ON WHOM THE DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAS INFORMATION):

2. UNSAL WAS BORN IN IZMIT IN 1935. HE EARNED A LAW DEGREE FROM ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY AND AN MA IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY IN 1964, THEN ENTERED THE LABOR UNION FIELD IN TURKEY. HE SERVED AS EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR OF TEKSIF UNION UNTIL HIS DISMISSAL IN 1966 AS BEING TOO RADICAL WHEN THE UNION LEADERSHIP CHANGED. HE FOUND ANOTHER POSITION WITH GENEL-IS FEDERATION ASSIGNED TO ISTANBUL, WHERE HE CONDUCTED A PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE CONCURRENTLY WITH HIS UNION DUTIES. UNSAL ALSO WORKED FOR OLEY-IS (THE RESTAURANT AND HOTEL WORKERS UNION) AS ADVISOR AND ATTORNEY. HE HAS SERVED AS INTERPRETER (ENGLISH) AT INTERNATIONAL LABOR MEETINGS. SERVING AS AN APPOINTED TRADE UNION OFFICIAL, UNSAL HAS WRITTEN ARTICLES AND SPEECHES AND OTHERWISE SUPPORTED WITH HIS INTELLECTUAL TALENTS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN TURK-IS LABOR CONFEDERATION.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02137 170811Z

3. UNSAL JOINED THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) WITH BULENT

ECEVIT'S SUPPORT, WITH THE INTENTION OF RUNNING FOR PARLIAMENT IN THE 1969 ELECTIONS. ECEVIT IS THOUGHT TO HAVE ASKED HIM TO PREPARE ALL THE RPP'S PROPOSALS FOR LABOR LEGISLATION. HE LOST IN THE 1969 ELECTIONS BUT WON A SEAT IN THE 1973 ELECTIONS FROM ISTANBUL. UNSAL WAS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE RPP YOUTH BRANCH IN ISTANBUL, BUT SEVERED THIS CONNECTION AND THOSE WITH GENEL-IS AND OLEY-IS AFTER BEING ELECTED. HE NOW DEVOTES HIMSELF ENTIRELY TO RPP POLITICS, WHERE HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LEFT WING, A NON-REVOLUTIONARY RADICAL. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT ECEVIT, IN A MOVEMENT TOWARD THE POLITICAL CENTER, WOULD LIKE TO DUMP UNSAL, ALONG WITH OTHER RPP RADICALS.

4. UNSAL HAS WRITTEN ARTICLES HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO TURKEY, WHICH HE VIEWS AS IMPERIALISTIC, BUT HE SEEMS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THINGS AMERICAN, POSSIBLY AS THE RESULT OF HIS EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THERE. HE IS KNOWN IN THE U.S. TRADE UNION MOVEMENT; ONE OF ITS LEFT-OF-CENTER LEADERS CONSIDERS UNSAL AS A RADICAL.

5. UNSAL MUST BE APPROACHED AS AN INTELLECTUAL. HE HAS NO USE FOR PERSONS WITH CLOSED MINDS. HE HAS VERY HIGH MORAL STANDARDS AND HAS CHOSEN LABOR AS A CAREER IN THE BELIEF HE IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE WELFARE OF THE WORKING MAN.

6. UNSAL IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.
MACOMBER

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